

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 763

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Senator Mike Faulk on his meritorious service as a member of the Tennessee General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this body should recognize those fellow legislators who have performed their elected duties with unprecedented devotion and whose efforts to excel have brought substantial benefits to their respective communities and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Senator Mike Faulk of Kingsport is one such distinguished public servant whose dynamic career in the Senate will come to an end at the adjournment sine die of the 2012 Session of the 107<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, as he has announced his retirement from this august body; and

WHEREAS, Senator Faulk has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the good people of the 4<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District, who have evinced their unwavering confidence in his abilities as a legislator; and

WHEREAS, an eighth-generation Hawkins Countian and proud graduate of Church Hill High School, Senator Faulk maintains a thriving law practice and is a highly respected and beloved civic leader within and beyond the bounds of his community; and

WHEREAS, a man of distinction driven to excellence in all his endeavors, Senator Faulk has attained the highest level peer rating within his profession. Designated as an AV Preeminent Attorney by the LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell organization, he is among the ranks of the most excellent attorneys in the United States, and additionally he is a certified mediator; and

WHEREAS, though a native East Tennessean, Senator Faulk sought his post-secondary education in West Tennessee, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin. During his time there, he and his

colleague, Representative Art Swann, were elected as the inaugural president and vice-president, respectively, of the newly-organized Student Government Association of that institution, perhaps an omen foretelling of governmental leadership roles that would come to both of these gentlemen; and

WHEREAS, Senator Faulk continued his studies at Memphis State University and was granted his Juris Doctorate in 1979, at which time he received the Memphis State Law School's Bowling Labor Law Award. He also holds a Masters of Public Administration degree from that institution; and

WHEREAS, before returning to East Tennessee, Senator Faulk was an associate with the Memphis labor law firm of Weintraub & DeHart, during which time he practiced throughout the eastern United States before the National Labor Relations Board, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and numerous federal courts; and

WHEREAS, elected to the Senate in 2008, Senator Faulk has served admirably as a member of the 106<sup>th</sup> and 107<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies. Clear from the outset in his intent to self-limit his time in elected office, Senator Faulk has been aggressive in his legislative work and has masterfully shepherded multiple pieces of legislation to successful completion to the benefit of all the good people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, during his legislative tenure, Senator Faulk has rendered sterling service as Chair of the Senate Calendar Committee, Vice-Chair of Commerce, Labor, and Agriculture, and Chair of the Subcommittee on Corrections. He has served as a member of the body's Environment, Conservation, and Tourism Committee, State and Local Government Committee, and Judiciary Committee and as chair of Judiciary's Firearms and Ammunition Subcommittee. He also served on the Select Committee on Children and Youth and the TennCare Oversight Committee; and

WHEREAS, his exemplary legislative service notwithstanding, Senator Faulk has an extensive record of public service that spans the past three decades. In and around Hawkins County, he founded the "Get a Hit: Stay Fit" Childhood Obesity Initiative and has served as director and board member of Legal Services of Upper East Tennessee. He also served as

Juvenile Court Referee in Hawkins County, as the City Attorney for the town of Mt. Carmel, and as an ardent supporter of Boys & Girls Club and Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, his discerning judgment has been exercised in service to the State's Human Rights Commission, a body to which he was appointed by Governor Lamar Alexander and which he subsequently served as vice-president. He has also served on the Board of Governors of the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association; and

WHEREAS, active in many professional organizations, Senator Faulk maintains membership in the Hawkins County, the Tennessee, and the American Bar Associations and the American Trial Lawyers Association. He maintains membership in the various chambers of commerce throughout the 4<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District as well; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with his outstanding professional accomplishments and masterful legislative abilities, Senator Faulk has received many accolades. Among some of the most prestigious awards bestowed upon him are: the Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and Development Council "2011 Best Friend" award, 2010 Legislator of the Year for the First Tennessee Development District, Certified Civil Trial Specialist by the National Board of Trial Advocacy; Outstanding Lawyers of America Award, United States Jaycees Outstanding Young Men of America Award, inclusion among the 2007 and 2008 Super Lawyers of the Mid-South, Outstanding Lawyers of America, Community Leader and Noteworthy American Award recipient, inclusion into the *Who's Who in the South and Southwest* and *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*, and, early in his career, he was appointed an Honorary Shelby County Squire and Colonel Aide de Camp for Governor Alexander's staff; and

WHEREAS, a true connoisseur of the great outdoors, relaxation and rejuvenation come best for Senator Faulk when he allows himself to be enveloped in the natural beauty of the Appalachian area. He is a excellent sportsman and maintains membership in the Holston Valley Sportsman Club, Ducks Unlimited, and the National Rifle Association; and

WHEREAS, his many civic and professional accomplishments aside, Senator Faulk is most appreciative of the love and affection of his daughter, Katy, and his son, Andy; and

WHEREAS, the son of Rosella Dykes Faulk and her late husband, Loy Glade Faulk, Senator Faulk is eternally grateful to them both for a lifetime of love and nurturance. He relishes memories of times with his father, who instilled in him a deep and abiding love of nature and a

heart-felt obligation to preserve the beauty and conserve the resourcefulness of our homelands, and he is greatly anticipating spending much time with his mother when his legislative duties and responsibilities come to a close; and

WHEREAS, also anticipating a greater amount of his loving and loyal master's time and attention in the coming days is the Senator's canine companion, Rueben, with whom he shares mutual adoration and profound friendship; and

WHEREAS, Senator Mike Faulk is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized for his distinguished tenure in this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Senator Mike Faulk for his honorable, astute, and meritorious service to the good people of Tennessee, commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service to the citizens of the 4<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District, and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction. We extend to him our deepest appreciation for his service and give him our best wishes for much success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.